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Letter dated 23 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with the instructions of my Government, I am writing the present letter to bring to your kind attention the provocative course of action pursued by the Greek Cypriot administration in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The Greek Cypriot side's attempts to delimit maritime jurisdiction areas as well as to explore oil and natural gas deposits in the Eastern Mediterranean continue unabated. In contradiction to the established principles of international law, the Greek Cypriot side has adopted a law identifying 13 oil exploration fields around the island of Cyprus and called for an international tender. Despite our objections, the tender process continues and is expected to be finalized as of 16 August 2007. All these acts, aiming at creating de facto situations in the region, are totally unacceptable.

It is an established rule that maritime delimitation in a semi-enclosed sea like the Eastern Mediterranean can be effected only by agreement, with the consent of all parties concerned and by respecting their mutual rights. Since there is no such agreement over the exclusive economic zone in the said region, the Greek Cypriot administration has no right whatsoever to initiate any activity there, including oil exploration.

The Greek Cypriot attempts violate Turkey's legitimate rights and interests in the Eastern Mediterranean. In this context, I would like to recall the information note annexed to the letter from the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations, dated 2 March 2004, also issued in the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*, No. 54, concerning its objection to the agreement between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Greek Cypriot side on the "delimitation of the exclusive economic zone". Therein Turkey registered its existing ipso facto and ab initio legal and legitimate rights, especially in the western part of the longitude 32°16′18″, in accordance with the established principles of international law.

In fact, the Turkish Cypriots also have rights and authority over the maritime areas around the island of Cyprus, and the Greek Cypriots do not represent the

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island as a whole. As we have already stated, Turkey does not recognize the agreements signed by the Greek Cypriot authority in this direction and will not accept unilateral Greek Cypriot acts in these maritime areas. President Talat, in his letter addressed to you on 2 February 2007, has also underlined that the attitude of the Greek Cypriot side, which has long delayed a settlement in Cyprus, prejudges the fundamental rights of the Turkish Cypriot people and asserts the urgency of a final and comprehensive solution to the Cyprus issue that will also enable Turkish and Greek Cypriots to benefit jointly from the island's resources.

On this occasion, Turkey reaffirms its determination to contribute to the efforts to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem under your mission of good offices as well as under the long-established United Nations framework and parameters, namely political equality, bizonality, equal status and a new partnership State.

Turkey has expressed time and again that it is determined to protect its rights and interests in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Greek Cypriot side continues to pursue a policy that generates tension in the region.

Turkey continues to act responsibly on the basis of international law and legitimacy. We also expect from all parties concerned that they act in the same manner.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative